

(Continued from page 1)

appliances, for training in housekeeping and shopping, down to the very detail of how to mark canned goods to tell peas from beans . . . The society collects old eyeglasses for a "New Eyes for the Needy" program . . . Toledo has three bowling leagues for blind persons, Ray Meyers, Bob Gottschalk, Frank Radwanski, Addie Pointer, Ricky Tramill, Ronnie Harris, and Russ Deehr having impressive averages . . . Blind women, on the first Wednesday of every month, are picked up at their homes and driven to the society for a luncheon, guests of a different women's club from the Toledo metropolitan area . . . More than 1,000 talking book machines are in circulation so the blind can use thousands of recorded books and magazines, plus records, according to Hilda Crandall, who handles the service.

The Toledo Society for the Blind's low-vision eye clinic at St. Vincent Hospital was established in 1968 . . . a week-long summer camp is financed through the society's Christmas card sale so the members can enjoy swimming, crafts, games, hiking, tours, and fishing . . . A Christmas season highlight is the Lions Club's party for the blind, with Ben Snyder, Lions' secretary, arranging full transportation.

#### A friendly group

Incidentally, it has been my good fortune, or as the orators say, "a great privilege and pleasure and honor" twice to address the blind guests at the Christmas party . . . The first time I quivered with fear . . . How, I wondered, do you tell stories of objects that most of these guests have never seen? . . . But from the beginning, the guests laughed and seemingly enjoyed my "golden oldies" (those are jokes, son), making it one of the most receptive audiences ever . . . Kent Slocum, master of ceremonies, explained this nice reaction quite simply: "This audience listened."

#### Lighter side of life

Art Swaengen, 68, is one person who remembers when the society was organized . . . He was a teen-ager then, with a meager sight that since became total darkness for him . . . Art chuckles with delight as he tells of practical jokes enjoyed by the blind, including the time that Aubry Forman, successful insurance man and highly polished pianist, started to play at camp and the premediated sawed-off piano leg crumpled . . . Or the time when Lyle Kirk, then executive director, asked another insurance man, Jim Falzone, to throw their fishing boat anchor overboard, then jokingly said: "There was no rope on it". . . To which Jim replied: "I know that. I can feel, you know". . . Or Mr. Swaengen telling how the blind could take a big jigsaw puzzle and "put the United States together," adding, "which is something politicians have been unable to do."

Lyle Kirk was brought out of retirement by director Don Norwood to assist in public relations . . . These men have made the arrangements for the open house and are hoping people will drop by and observe the functions of the half-century Toledo Society for the Blind.

Reprinted—Courtesy Don Wolfe



A small portion of the addition to the Society's building is pictured above

## More Elbow Room!

Through the years, as the Society's activities and sheltered workshop grew, the need for more work and storage space became evident. So, in December of 1967, the Society was able to purchase the Grainger building which is adjacent to the Society's present location. In 1973 the Board of Directors authorized the remodeling of this building and to furnish it with modern equipment.

This project is now completed and is being used to warehouse cartons which are a part of the sheltered workshop operation. By utilizing the addition in this manner, it released needed work space in the main building, formerly used as storage, thereby bringing work supervision under one roof and centralized area.

We are pleased with our new addition and the folks in the sheltered workshop program are more than delighted to have more "elbow room" in which to perform their tasks.

## The Sign Post



Approximately 1,000 children are expected to be in our local Head Start classes at the opening of the 1975 school year. Many of these beginners have serious eye problems and we would like to help them.

Training sessions began September 10th and will be held periodically at the Society to instruct volunteers in the screening of these children. Volunteers are needed—if interested, please call Mrs. Beverly St. John at 241-1183.

The Society takes a degree of satisfaction in saying that no legally or totally blind persons need to be "jobless" in Toledo, providing they want to work and can pass minimum physical requirements.

Presently, the Society needs a dozen blind persons to work in the Sheltered Workshop. Any persons interested, please call Miss Despina Chakmaki, our social worker, at 241-1183, for an interview.

# the Toledo Society for the Blind



1819 Canton Avenue, Toledo, Ohio 43624, Telephone 241-1183

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## I've Heard by Don Wolfe —as it appeared in The Blade, May 8, 1974

Edward E. Evans, Sr., father of the Scott High School footballer who kicked a famous field goal 50 years ago, is a legendary figure himself . . . The senior

Mr. Evans mortgaged his home to raise money to start the Toledo Society for the Blind . . . This will be recalled with appreciation when the organization observes its 50th anniversary, beginning Sunday, with a weeklong open house from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Canton Street and Southard Avenue . . . visitors will be impressed with the magnitude of the headquarters operation, with its training and rehabilitation

of nearsighted and blind persons, and how they work and travel to and from work for a self-sustaining job.

Before his death, the elder Mr. Evans served 32 years as president of the society . . . He was instrumental in the organization of the Downtown Toledo Lions Club, able men who supported the founding and growth of the Happy Times and Progressive Clubs . . . And the program and principles of the pioneers still exist through the capable leadership of John Goerlich, current president . . . No one will be able to count the generous contributions of Mr. Goerlich, or the Questor Corp., formerly AP Parts, because public mention is seldom made . . . The society's building was a gift of the firm.

#### Among the programs

Besides teaching the nearsighted and blind how to work, and earn, the society has a modern home layout inside the building, fully equipped with furniture and  
(Continued on back page)

## 1974 Christmas Card Program

Our 1974 holiday cards carry an added meaning this year, inasmuch as the world is in a state of great unrest. But at this time of year when we are, more than ever, thinking of "Peace On Earth, Good Will Toward Men," we are more sincere about achieving that goal.

With this in mind, we selected the enclosed card samples which we feel are appropriate for business, religious or personal use. We hope you like our selection.

Through your purchase of these greeting cards from the Society, we are able to carry on many extracurricular programs which, otherwise, are not provided for by United Appeal funds. These programs include summer camp, eye screening, medical clinic at St. Vincent Hospital, family night and help for blind bowlers.

The cards are easy to order. Choose from one or more of these samples, fill out the enclosed post-paid order card and drop it in the mail. If you wish, the cards may be imprinted with your name, please allow \$4.50 per card selection for this extra service.

You will not receive a bill or invoice for these cards. In return, we ask that you make a contribution to the Society; anything over the amount you usually pay for your holiday cards is tax deductible.

Just knowing that your contribution has given the Society an opportunity to continue these important programs, is one more way of expressing "Peace On Earth, Good Will Toward Men." We do appreciate your help.





A group of Teamster's is shown touring the Sheltered Workshop during the 50th Anniversary open house

## OPEN HOUSE— A Huge Success

To commemorate their 50th year, the Toledo Society for the Blind held open house from May 12-18, during which time many persons toured the facility. It was good to renew old acquaintances and make many new ones. Among the groups who visited were the Teamster's and Downtown Lions Club.

It was a most successful week and all who toured our fine building were very interested in the departmental activities we offer. It was a nice opportunity to see the craft class where the ladies were busy weaving baskets.

The Society wishes to thank everyone who visited them or helped in any way, during this golden anniversary celebration, for without these friends, the open house would not have been a success.

We were especially proud and pleased to have such wonderful support from The Blade—Don Wolfe and Carol Williams, WSPD-Radio, WLQR-Radio and WSPD-TV who did a news film for us.

It has been a busy and marvelous fifty years—we anticipate the next fifty to be even better!

## Mrs. St. John Assumes Head Start Program

The Toledo Society for the Blind has completed their sixth year with the Head Start Eye Screening Program during which time over 1,260 children have been screened with 110 being referred to the Eye Clinic this past year.

Mrs. Beverly St. John assumed the coordinator's position as the successor to Mrs. Meszaros who organized the eye screening program and eventually became the executive assistant.

Mrs. St. John, the mother of five children, is a graduate of Central Catholic High School and studied business administration at the University of Toledo. She is a very capable person and has done a remarkable job in setting up new office procedures at the clinic and securing volunteers for the screening program.

## Downtown Lions Club Presentation

In an impressive ceremony at the Hillcrest Hotel on May 2nd, the keys to a beautiful 1974 gold-tone Plymouth Voyager eight-passenger van were presented to Executive Director Donald G. Norwood of the Toledo Society for the Blind.

Presentation was made by Judge Reno R. Riley, Jr., president of the Downtown Lions Club who made the donation to the Society.



1974 Plymouth Voyager presentation by Common Pleas Judge Reno R. Riley, Jr., right, to Executive Director Donald G. Norwood, left

The 1974 van was purchased as a replacement for the 1967 Chevrolet station wagon which had been used these many years. The purpose of this conveyance is to take those blind persons who do not have other means of transportation, to and from the various planned social activities such as the picnics and Christmas parties.

The spacious new vehicle is equipped with a large storage area in addition to the increased passenger seating, all of which will certainly be put to good use.

Thank you—Downtown Lions Club!



Pictured are two beginners in the Head Start Eye Screening Program

# Board of Trustees

## A Message from Our President:

Most of us have experienced a wide variety of feelings when exposed to blindness. In seeing blind persons walking on the street, we feel great sympathy, wishing there were some way of giving them their sight. Some people are struck with an element of fear because they know that visual failure, like most diseases, can strike anyone at any age. For many reasons, we who are sighted are unable to accept the attitude that blindness is a handicap with which many people must live but, despite their loss, a large number of them lead self-fulfilling, happy lives.

Today a blind person can be trained to do many things. As recently as the early 1920's, this was not true. Most blind people didn't work at all. Less than ten percent of all blind children were in the public schools. Blindness was regarded as something to be ashamed of. Thank God that has changed!

We at the Toledo Society for the Blind, are doing our part. Why don't you accept our invitation to visit the Society and see blind people working happily at gainful, useful employment and, if you have not included the Society in your Will, may I urge you to do so. Your attorney knows how to handle it, whether it is cash, insurance, property or whatever. The Society's attorney will be happy to assist you at no charge.

**JOHN GOERLICH**  
President, The Toledo Society for the Blind



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United Savings & Loan Association



Richard Vining  
Retired  
Blind Representative

The Toledo Society for the Blind is a Red Feather Agency, handling all the eye problems that come to it from the area served by the Toledo United Appeal.

As a local agency, we are particularly fortunate to have a dedicated Board of Trustees. These entrusted Toledo businessmen serve without pay or expense money. If you wish to make a contribution to the Society, please have every confidence that it will be handled properly by our board. For further information about our work, please feel free to contact any board member.

Won't you call today and ask of what help you might be?